A Long-Term Survival Guide - How To Survive Feral Dog Attacks:

In a long-term survival situation, I believe that packs of feral dogs will become a severe problem for most of us, second only to criminals as a daily worry. Many dogs will be abandoned in a major crisis, for one reason or another, and it won't take long for those dogs to revert to instinctive pack behavior. A large group of from 20 to 30 feral dogs could easily ambush unprepared people, and they may soon come to view us as an easy food source.

By the time you encounter such a feral dog pack, they may already have killed dozens of humans, and will have had plenty of time to become man-eaters. Dog packs do not fight fair; they rush their intended victims all at once.

Even an armed human can be overwhelmed by such a mass attack, so you need to develop a defense plan for your group, to improve your odds of surviving. A few good tactics, planned and practiced in advance, can make a big difference in how such encounters turn out. Thinking about this potential threat now, and making the necessary preparations, can also make it more likely that you could destroy the pack, instead of just surviving the attack. If you can wipe out even one wild dog pack, you may well be saving the lives of dozens of other potential victims.

Fail to develop a defense plan against wild dog packs, and this may be the last thing you ever see.

There are three problems to consider when thinking about feral dog attacks:

First, because it is not that difficult to kill a small pack of two or three wild dogs, people tend to underestimate the danger posed by larger packs, if they consider them at all. If your plan A is to stand your ground and fight, you could quite possibly be overwhelmed before you have time to change your mind about what to do. Even if you have a gun ready, and you shoot the first few dogs that are leading the attack charge, as soon as one dog latches onto you, you will no longer be able to run. If a dog gets you by one arm, you may not be able to replace an empty magazine in your gun, and if you get a dog on each arm, you will no longer be able to fight effectively at all, and after that things will get ugly fast. Dog packs kill by first bringing their prey down to ground level. Once you get pulled down, all of your vital areas are within bite range, and odds are you won't get back up.

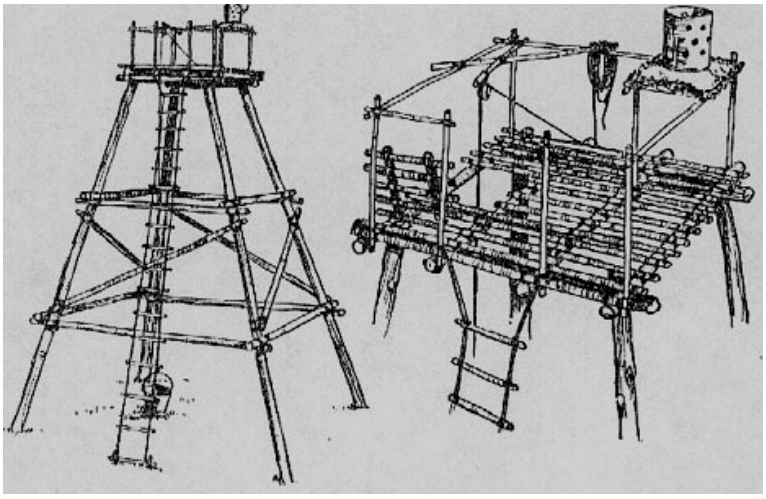
Second, any time you are out and about, you may run into a dog pack unexpectedly. You might have very little time to react to an encounter, and it may be difficult to quickly determine how many dogs are in the pack.

Third, any dog defense plan you pick needs to work for all of your group members, not just the biggest, strongest members. You need a plan that will keep your spouse, children, and injured, disabled, or elderly group members the safest.

An effective dog defense plan should have three parts; shelters, weapons, and training. You need shelters that will give you safe places to fight from, weapons that can kill large numbers of dogs, and your group needs to train on a regular basis, so that everyone knows what to do when a dog attack occurs. (Practice, Practice, Practice)

Shelters: For dog defense, a shelter is any location where you are protected from mass charges by attacking dogs. This includes most sturdy buildings, enclosed vehicles, areas protected by chain-link fence, and elevated places with no way for dogs to climb up. You should look over your retreat, and make any improvements needed, to make your location as safe as possible from feral dog packs.

Buildings should have vulnerable points reinforced, such as by adding expanded metal screens over windows and sliding glass doors. Ladders can be added to the outside of buildings and sheds, to make it easy to escape to the roof. Chain-link fences can be improved by staking the bottom edge, so that dogs can't push underneath, and by piling rocks along the base of the fence, to make digging underneath more difficult. Double gates can also be added to all entrances, to create an airlock effect, and both sets of gates should always be closed and secure.



This is one type of elevated platform for dog defense, but it should be made with full-width ladders, on all sides, for easy access by several people (who may all be trying to climb up at the same time).

There will almost never be enough adequate shelters already in ideal places around your retreat area, to give you enough safe refuges from dog attacks. Fortunately, you can build simple elevated platforms in strategic locations, to fill in most of the gaps in your defenses.

Don't bet your life on being able to climb the nearest tree. A fighting platform as low as eight feet tall will keep you safe, no matter how many feral dogs attack your position at once.

Once you have your retreat area squared away, you should add more shelters in places where you routinely spend time, such as garden plots, woodlots, fishing spots, trap-lines, and livestock pens.

If you don't know how many dogs might be in a pack, get to any available defensive position FIRST, then fight. Use your weapons to get you to the nearest shelter, and then you will be able to kill attacking dogs at your leisure.

Weapons: Never go anywhere unarmed, and never go outside without a rifle, lots of ammo, and a survival pack. Always assume you will be attacked by a large pack of dogs, and always keep your weapons at the ready. Keep a sling on your rifle, and always keep it slung on your body; do not lean it against a tree while you gather firewood.

An assault weapon or riot shotgun would be the weapons of choice for fighting a pack of 20 or 30 feral dogs, but even if you have one (or both), a fighting platform evens the odds, when greatly outnumbered by dogs gone wild.

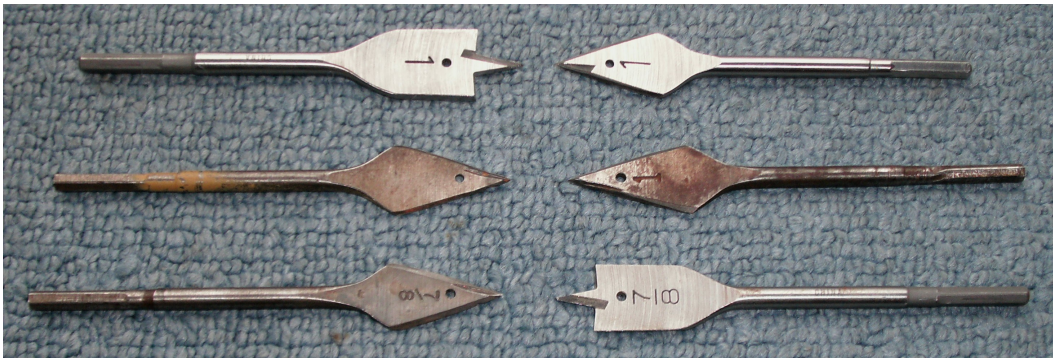
A bolt-action rifle is adequate for dog pack defense, when combined with safe fighting positions.

Even a 22 rifle can kill dozens of attacking dogs, given a safe position, and enough extra ammo.

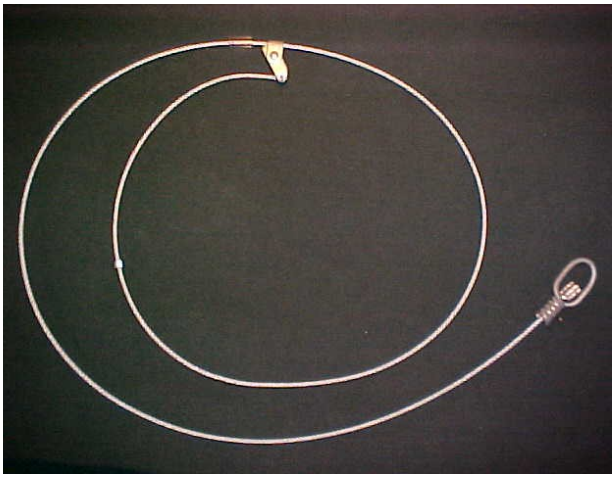
I always carry a 500 round brick of ammo for my 22, if I leave my retreat area.

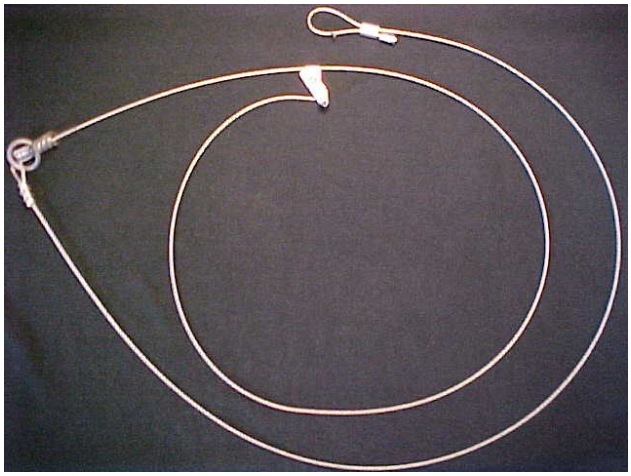
Fighting platforms and shelters should have a supply of spears, for killing dogs if ammo is scarce.

The easiest way to make spear heads is to reshape spade drill bits, using a bench grinder.

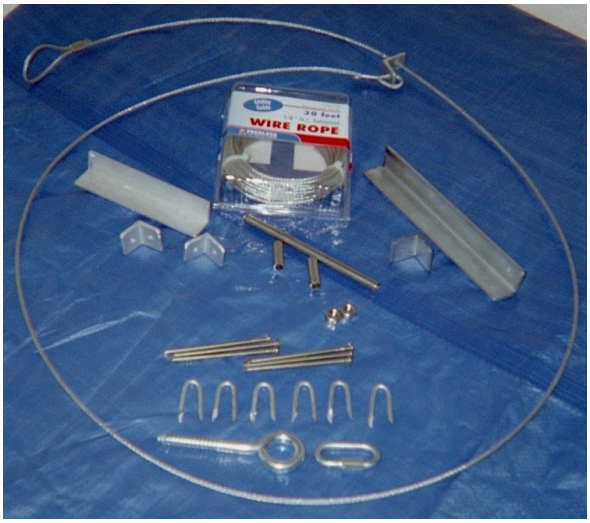


Cable snares should be a part of your defense, as they are cheap and effective at killing feral dogs.

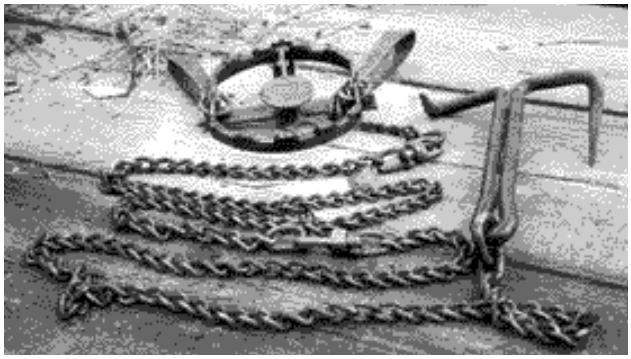




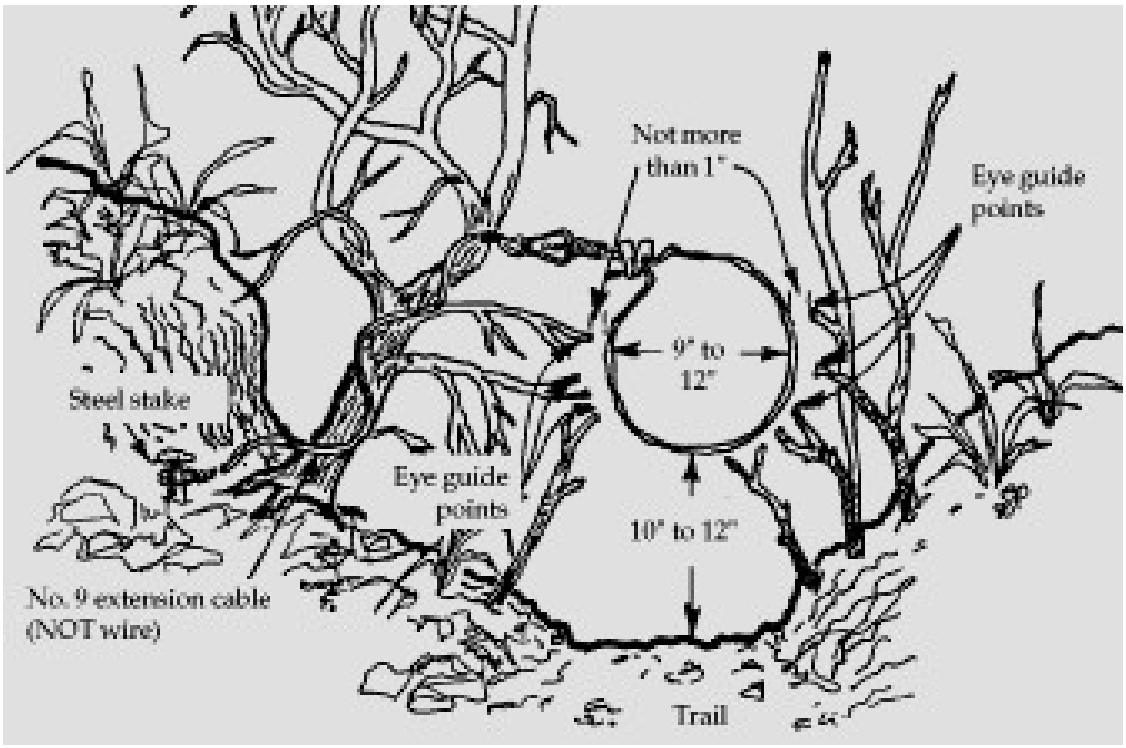
Cable-lock snares should be set on trails around your retreat, to kill the feral dogs that may show up.



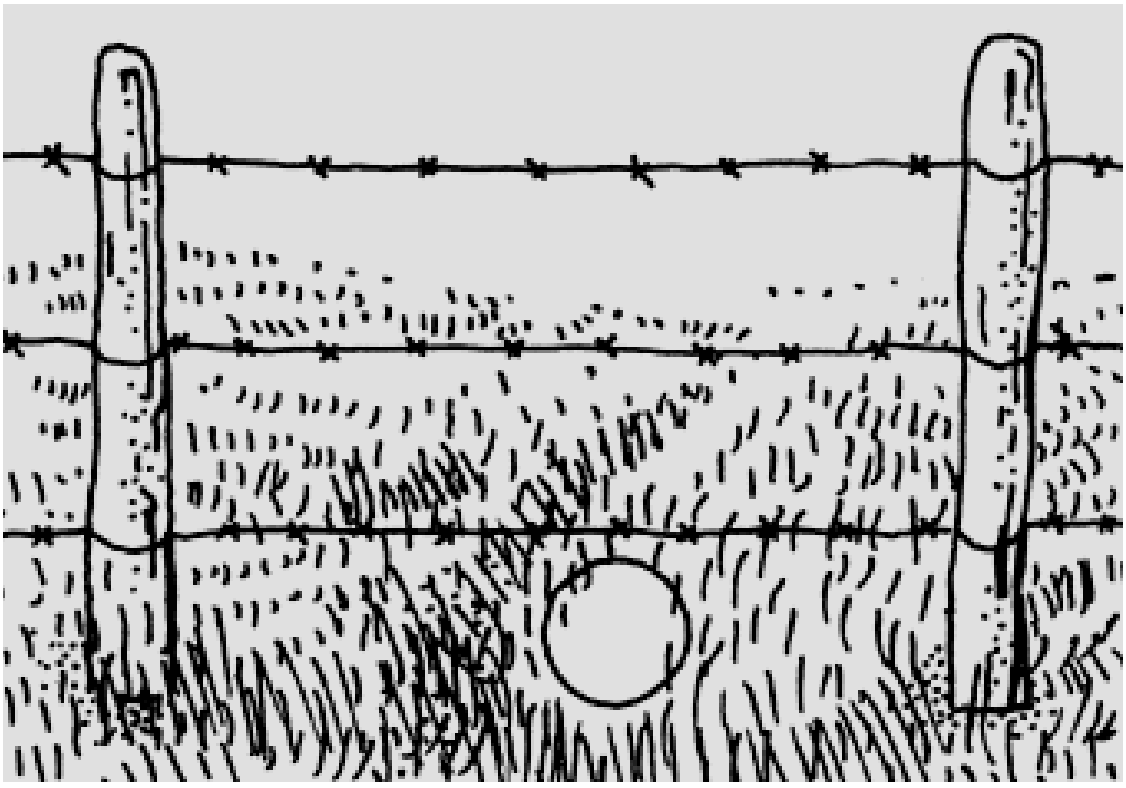
You can make snares, or buy snares, but you should have several dozen in your survival supplies.



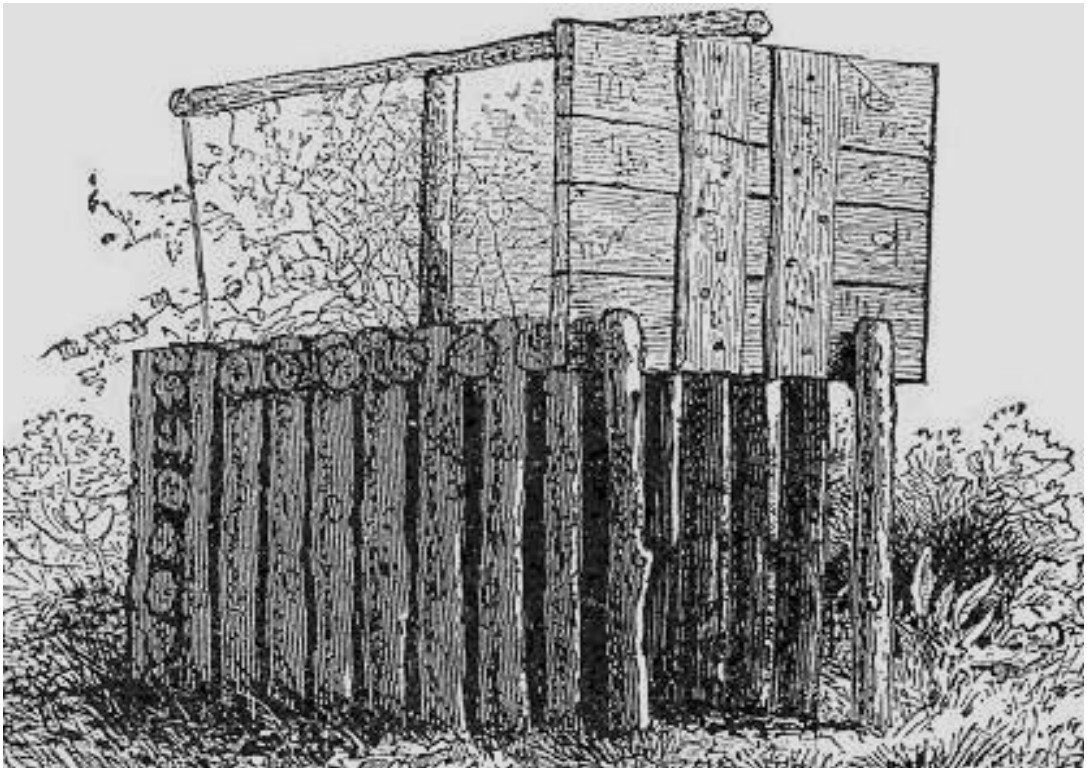
Cable snares will kill dogs, wolves, and coyotes, but they can only supplement your weapons, not replace them. Snares are cheaper than traps, but you can use traps if you have them, and they should be tethered, to prevent loss. In addition to trails, snares can be placed around cages baited with live game, and around fenced areas holding livestock.



Snares should be placed at trail choke points, and the best choke points are those you make yourself.



Game trails that cross fences are an ideal place for dog snares, as feral dogs will follow the scents.



Pen Traps: Sturdy pen traps can catch wild dogs, if you don't have any snares, and then they can be killed with a spear.

Pit Trap: Pit traps like these were used for trapping wolves, before the invention of the cable snare and rifle. They work, but digging one is a lot of effort. To make this trap, dig a pit eight feet deep, and six feet wide. In this pit a wooden frame is constructed, with walls made of planks or poles. The trap is covered with vegetation, foliage, grass etc. The bait can be roadkill, entrails, or a live animal, placed on a wooden circular platform on an elevated pole, in the middle of the trap. Sharp wooden stakes should be placed in the bottom, to kill any dogs that fall in.

Killing feral dogs is a normal part of daily life, in some parts of Africa and Australia.

Wild dogs are a danger to humans and livestock; killing them protects your family and food supply.

Wild dogs are often hung on fences, but in a long-term crisis you may wind up eating any you kill.